



NEWS RELEASE

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE
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Retirees requested to update beneficiary files

Cleveland, Ohio -- The Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland Center (DFAS-CL) is providing retirees an opportunity to update the beneficiary information in their payroll files. The postage prepaid beneficiary information cards will be mailed to all retirees this fall requesting they forward to DFAS current information.

Recent reviews of retiree records show that beneficiary information submitted at the time of retirement has not been changed or updated since then. Many beneficiary records designate a former spouse who because of death or divorce is no longer a beneficiary. While retirees may feel that their designation is correct, DFAS is requesting all retirees fill in the beneficiary information card and return it to DFAS to guarantee an up-to-date beneficiary record. For added security retirees may enclose the card in an envelope addressed to the address on the front of the card.

When future changes are required retirees are encouraged to submit a new designation card of beneficiary.

DFAS is working to include beneficiary information on the Retiree Account Statement (RAS). Some retirees will see beneficiary information displayed on the annual RAS, which is planned for mailing in December 2000.

(more)

Retirees 2-2-2-2

To assist in filling out the card, the following examples of different types of beneficiary designations are provided:

1. To designate successive beneficiaries to receive full amount due, beneficiaries will be paid in the order listed on the card.

SHARE	FULL NAME	SSN	COMPLETE ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP
100%	Mary Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Mother
100%	John Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Father
100%	(any person or org)	SSN	No., Street, City, State	None

2. To designate beneficiaries to share amount due, percentage for each must be shown and total must equal 100%

50%	Mae Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Wife
50%	Jane Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Son

3. To designate a primary beneficiary to receive full amount due and successive beneficiaries to share amount due, if prime beneficiary is not living at time of your death, choices and percentages must be shown.

100%	Mary Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Spouse
50%	John Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Son
50%	Jane Jones	SSN	No., Street, City, State	Daughter

4. LEGAL ORDER OF PRECEDENCE is paid to the surviving person highest on the the following list.

- (1) Your spouse.
- (2) Your children and their dependents, by representation.
- (3) Your parents, in equal parts, or if either is dead, the survivor.
- (4) The legal representative of your estate.
- (5) Persons entitled under the law of your domicile

(more)

Retirees 3-3-3-3

DO'S AND DON'TS –

A RETIREE'S BENEFICIARY GUIDELINE FOR DEATH BENEFITS

DO

- Know whom to contact about a retiree's death. Have a list of helpful telephone numbers and addresses handy. Such as phone numbers and addresses of the nearest Social Security Administration, the nearest Veteran's Administration and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Cleveland Center Casualty Section.
 - Veteran's Administration, 1-800-827-1000
 - Veteran's Administration Insurance, 1-800-669-8477
 - DFAS Cleveland Center Customer Service (Casualty), 1-800-269-5170
 - Social Security Administration, 1-800-772-1213
- Have retiree's full name.
- Have retiree's Social Security Number.
- Have retiree's date of death.
- Have beneficiary name and relationship to deceased.
- Retiree's current address.
- Notify Social Security Administration.
 - Return and cancel any payments received after the date of death.
 - Have a list of benefits to which beneficiaries are entitled.
- Notify the Local County Veteran's Service Office and request their assistance.

DON'T

- Don't use any retired payments received after date of retiree's death.
- Don't return any retired payments that have been directly deposited to a bank account; DFAS will automatically reclaim the money that needs to be returned when you notify DFAS of the retiree's death.
- Don't use any VA or Social Security payments issued after the date of death. A beneficiary can be required to pay any money back that was used after the date of death.